#### In the claims:

Please cancel claims 9, 18, and 19, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

#### Claim 23 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the said ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from E. coli K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of tatA, tatB, tatC, and tatE, or a homologue or functional fragment of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### Claim 24 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### Claim 25 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 80% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

# Claim 26 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the homologue has at least 90% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

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#### Claim 27 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the operon comprises the *tatB* gene.

#### Claim 28 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, and SEQ ID NO:15, or a homologue or functional fragment of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.



#### Claim 29 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, and SEQ ID NO:15.

#### Claim 30 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### Claim 31 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### Claim 32 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 80% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### Claim 33 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 90% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.



#### Claim 34 (New)

The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

# / Claim 35 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from *E. coli* K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, and *tatE*, or a homologue of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### / Claim 36 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from E. coli K1 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of tatA, tatB, tatC, and tatE, or a functional fragment of any of the foregoing.

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# / Claim 37 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue or functional fragment thereof, and wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

#### / Claim 38 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:

contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a homologue thereof, and wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 70% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.



# ✓ Claim 39 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising: contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, or a functional fragment thereof.

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## Claim 40 (New)

A method for screening a potential antimicrobial drug, said method comprising:
contacting a peptide with the potential antimicrobial drug, wherein the peptide has the
ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential antimicrobial drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.